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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

January 10, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALCEE L. HASTINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Let us sing a new song to the Lord. Let us praise the Lord in all the works of justice."

Lord, may the Nation be strengthened in hope and be inspired to think through things anew. With new Members and experienced Members working together in Congress, may new tactics and decisions be revealed as the will of the people and in accord with Your provident plan.

In You, O Lord, we find creativity, wisdom and faithful love, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STEARNS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IRAQI SURGE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the President's proposal that he will announce tonight to increase rather than decrease the number of troops in Iraq defies the reality on the ground and the advice of our wisest military commanders. This decision will only serve to put more forces in the crossfire of a growing civil war. If there ever was a justifiable mission to depose a ruthless dictator, that mission has been accomplished. The Congress never authorized this military occupation. It is irresponsible and, in fact, immoral to allow more innocent American lives to be lost in vain.

Iraq is an artificial nation that was created by Winston Churchill and Gertrude Bell in 1922 to promote their concept of British imperialism. The reality is that this was never a winnable war for the United States of America nor in my view is it a sustainable civil society, and adding more troops is not going to change that reality.

DEPUTY GILMER HERNANDEZ— BORDER LAWMAN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the small border town of Rocksprings, Texas, where drug smugglers and human smugglers sneak across the Rio Grande into America, lone Deputy Sheriff Gilmer Hernandez was on patrol. In the

stillness of the vast night, a speeding Suburban runs a red light. Deputy Hernandez, 25, stops the vehicle, but suddenly, without warning, the vehicle takes off. Deputy Hernandez says the vehicle tried to run him down. The lawman fires several shots, one of which shoots out the rear tire, just like in the movies.

The vehicle stops, and eight or nine illegals jump out and take off running into the sagebrush. One illegal had a minor injury from a bullet. The U.S. Government rounds up six or seven of the illegals and, guess what, prosecutes Deputy Hernandez, claiming he recklessly discharged his firearm and uses the illegals as witnesses against the lawman during a trial.

Citizens of his town are mad. One said, "Our deputy's in jail for doing his job."

Mr. Speaker, another example of how the Federal Government is more concerned about people illegally invading America than it is about the men who protect America. Once again, our government is on the wrong side of the border war.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BULGARIA ON BEING ADMITTED INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this has been a joyous new year for the people of Bulgaria. On January 1, Bulgaria and Romania were admitted into the European Union. In less than 16 years Bulgaria has successfully transitioned from a Communist totalitarian regime into a free market democracy.

Three years ago, I was honored to be at the White House with former Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha as

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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